THE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
OTES OF THE MONTH	227
RLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES	229
VIL SERVICE BONUS	230
IE FIRST NALGO SUMMER SCHOOL	231
OVEMENT OF MEMBERS	232
CAL GOVERNMENT	233
ATH	234
IE NALGO CRUISE	235
DDS AND ENDS	236
USINGS	237
IE I.M.T.A.	238
"HELP YOURSELF" SOCIETY	239
RANSFERRED OFFICERS	240
ERSONALIA	243
BITUARY	246
ORTS AND RECREATIONS	247

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Communications.

All communications should be addressed to the General ecretary, and communications on different subjects, or relating separate departments—*e.g.* "Branch," "Legal," "Education," "Superannuation," "Approved Society," "Provident ociety," "Travel Bureau," "Service Conditions," "B. and O. und," "Official Journal"—should be sent as separate letters.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The "Local Government Service" is published the 1st of each month. All contributions, which should be addressed to the Editor, "Local Government Service," 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, should be received not later than the 15th of the preceding month. Opinions expressed by correspondents or in contributed articles are not necessarily held by the Editor or the Association. The Editor welcomes articles and letters on subjects of interest to Local Government Officers. Such contributions should not be of too great length, and should be typed on one side of the paper.

"By these three virtues be the frame sustained;
Of British Freedom—Independent Life,
Integrity in Office, and o'er all,
Supreme, a passion for the Commonweal."—THOMSON.

Notes of the Month.

TOWARDS COMPULSORY SUPERANNUATION.

THE last three months of the year bring a crop of Branch Meetings and Annual Dinners, and we hope the fullest possible advantage will be taken at these gatherings to stimulate interest in the widespread ramifications and activities of the Association.

At the meetings of Branches covering local authorities who have not adopted the Superannuation Act, we can rest assured that questions will be asked. The President of N.A.L.G.O., in his address to the Lowestoft Conference, made a very timely and truthful statement on the position of Superannuation; and nothing can be lost by reprinting the following paragraph from Mr. Johnson's Presidential address:—

"It is now twenty-one years since I had the doubtful privilege of drafting the first Superannuation Bill which N.A.L.G.O. considered. Since then, we have interviewed a succession of Presidents of the Local Government Board and Ministers of Health almost without a break. Our efforts in that direction have resulted in the setting up of two Departmental Committees, and the question has been referred to by the Royal Commission on Local Government. The Ministry's Report and the Recommendations have all said

'Superannuation is essential and necessary to the Local Government Service,' but whenever we have asked for those opinions to be made effective the perpetual cry has been 'the time is not opportune.' The Local Government Service throughout the length and breadth of England, Scotland and Wales has only N.A.L.G.O. and the Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert Nield to thank for what Superannuation provisions it has got."

We cannot conceive any greater satisfaction being given to Mr. Johnson than the rounding off and completion of the Superannuation question before he vacates the office of President, and we can assure our members that a very strenuous effort is being made to achieve this object.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert Nield, K.C., M.P., when he addressed the Conference, backed up the President in an admirable way. He offered to introduce a Bill during the next Session if no official movement is made in this direction by the Government. The Conference gave every indication that superannuation is still a primary issue, and the N.E.C. realizes that.

Since the Lowestoft Conference, the Superannuation Committee has been hard at work, and it is now ready for the next move. That Committee has established a definite point of contact with the Ministry of Health, and we hope that as a result time will be found by the Government to introduce a Bill during the forthcoming Session. If this hope does not materialise, then there will be no alternative but to have the Bill introduced through the good offices of Sir Herbert Nield. As things stand at the moment we can almost abandon the claim that a compulsory scheme is overdue justice, it is an immediate necessity complementary to the passing of the 1929 Act to straighten out the chaos which has arisen from the transfer of the Poor Law Services and the Superannuation rights of the ex-Poor Law Officers.

Only those who have been given the responsibility of dealing with the innumerable difficulties, mostly unforeseen, can appreciate to the fullest extent the need for a Superannuation Amending Bill. However, the National Executive Council is fully alive to all this, and nothing will be spared to achieve the desired object at an *early date*.

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

It is not altogether inappropriate to talk of holiday arrangements, even though the next open-air holiday may appear to be a long way off. Conference passed a very important resolution when it instructed the National Executive Council to consider the establishment of a Holiday Camp and a Holiday Home for the members of the Association, and that resolution has undoubtedly struck a note which not only appeals to the imagination of the members of the National Executive Council, but to a very wide range of members of the Association. N.A.L.G.O. cannot be complete in its system of organisation unless it includes a very definite contribution to the health and happiness of its 60,000 members. The National Executive Council, immediately after the Conference, appointed a Special Committee to go into the Holiday Camp and Holiday Home questions, and enquiries for sites and premises were immediately set into motion.

It will be a magnificent contribution if the Association will establish a modern well-equipped and ideal Holiday Camp at some point on the coast best suited for that kind of holiday, and cater for our junior members who have not too much money for holiday purposes. Healthy holidays are essential to efficient work, and it is necessary to bring that type of holiday within the range of every Nalgo member. Holiday Camps have developed considerably during the last decade, and there is ample evidence in the large number of enquiries that have been received at Headquarters of an overwhelming demand for holiday arrangements of this kind.

The Holiday Home proposal is of a different character, but of no less value. Probably the best course to take would be to establish one Holiday Home as a trial, and as the experiment proves successful, to establish other Homes in different parts of the country in order to give variety of choice. These are only questions of organisation, quite capable of solution, and will create their own demand if conducted on right lines and with the sole object of giving the best holiday facilities to the members of the Association on the lowest economic basis

Parliamentary Activities.

What the Association Has Done.

Among the most important of the Association's activities are those grouped under the general heading of "Parliamentary." The purpose of these activities is to secure, as far as possible, that legislation affecting officers shall not inflict hardship or injustice on them.

This account of the negotiations directed towards securing adequate provisions as to compensation and superannuation in the Land Drainage and Road Traffic Acts is interesting, and shows once more the weight and value of the Association's efforts.

The Land Drainage Act rovides for the con- itution of catchment ards for 47 catchment eas of rivers or arterial ains mentioned in the First hedule to the Act and the nstitution of other sub- diary drainage boards for ainage districts (whether thin or outside catchment eas). Special provisions e contained in the Act with ference to the catchment ards of the Thames catch- ent area (i.e. the Thames ove Teddington Lock) d the Lee catchment area, d the Conservators of e River Thames and the Conservators of the River Lee. he various existing Acts relating to land drainage and mmissions of sewers are repealed.

Certain provisions were contained in the Bill as introduced the House of Lords with reference to compensation to isting officers of Drainage Authorities but these did not clude the usual provision as to relinquishment of office d a claim to compensation where an officer is required thin five years after the commencement of the Act to per- rm duties not analogous to or which are an unreasonable dition to those which he was previously required to per- rm. The provision as to dispensation of services or duction of salary being deemed, unless the contrary is own, to be a loss consequent on the passing of the Act as limited to a period of two years from the commencement the Act instead of, as is usual, five years.

Negotiations were at one opened with the Ministry of griculture and Fisheries (and also with the Ministry of ealth) with reference to these matters, and also with the mer Ministry with reference to other points arising on e clause as to compensation to existing officers. It as understood that the principle of the amendments desired the Association would be agreed to by the Ministry of griculture; but as these amendments were not made in the ouse of Lords it became necessary to deal with the matter hen the Bill reached the Standing Committee in the Second ouse (Commons), and members of the House of Commons ere communicated with with a view to obtaining support r the amendments. In the result the form of the amend- ents was ultimately settled with the Ministry of Agri- lture, and the clause as to compensation was materially odified, a sub-section being inserted applying with necessary odifications the provisions as to determination and pay- ent of compensation which are contained in the Eighth hedule to the Local Government Act, 1929. The pro- sion as to relinquishment of office which had been agreed in Committee did not, however, appear in the Bill as printed as amended in Committee, and it became necessary ain to communicate with members of the House, and from ne to time with the Ministry, with reference to the matter. he provision was ultimately duly included among the endments made in the House of Commons and agreed by the House of Lords.

As not less than two-thirds of the members of a catch- ent board (exclusive of one member to be appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture) are to be appointed by the Councils of Counties or County Boroughs within the catchment area the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health were approached with a view to it being made clear that Drainage boards (including catchment boards) would be authorised to adopt the provisions of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922. The Ministry of Health, having considered the matter, expressed the opinion that a Drainage Authority constituted under the Act being an authority having power to levy a rate as defined in Section 34 of the Local Loans Act, 1807 would be a Local Authority for the purposes of the Superannuation Act of 1922. In these circumstances it was considered unnecessary to press for the insertion of any special provision in the Bill to deal with this matter.

Road Traffic Act.

By this Act provision is made for the regulation of traffic on roads and of motor vehicles and otherwise with respect to roads and vehicles thereon; for the protection of third parties against risks arising out of the use of motor vehicles and, in connection with such protection, the amendment of the Assurance Companies Act 1909. The new Act also amends the law with respect to the powers of local authorities to provide public service vehicles, and contains various provisions in connection with the above-mentioned matters.

The Act provides for the division of England into 11 Traffic Areas and for the division of Scotland into two Traffic Areas and for the constitution of Traffic Commissioners for each Area. Powers are also conferred upon the Minister of Transport for the appointment of certifying officers to perform duties in relation to the examination of vehicles and the issue of certificates of fitness or otherwise, and the appointment of Public Service Vehicle Examiners for, among other things, the inspection of Public Service Vehicles.

One of the effects of the Bill would be that certain duties performed by officers of Local Authorities in connection with Public Service Vehicles, and in particular the examination thereof, would be transferred to officers to be appointed under the Act. In view of this and of the fact that a considerable number of officers of Local Authorities, more particularly in the case of Counties, County Boroughs and larger Boroughs, are employed in various ways in connection with the licensing or with inspection or certification of Public Service Vehicles, it appeared that the result would be that alterations in the duties of certain officers of Local Authorities would take place involving consequent re-arrangements or reductions of staff and possibly diminution in salary or wages.

No provisions for the protection of or compensation to existing officers were contained in the Bill as introduced. In these circumstances the matter was taken up with the

Ministry of Transport, and a reasoned statement submitted to the Ministry before the Second Reading in the House of Lords (in which House the Bill originated) and draft Clauses were submitted to the Ministry, it being suggested on behalf of the Association that inasmuch as the provisions as to determination and payment of compensation to officers were considered in detail in the case of the Local Government Act 1929, and a comprehensive code of provisions inserted in that Act, such provisions might be conveniently applied with the necessary modifications in the case of the Road Traffic Bill.

It was understood that the Ministry would be prepared to consider the insertion of provisions generally on the lines submitted to them when the Bill reached the Standing Committee in the House of Commons, and notice was subsequently given by the Minister of provisions in the main similar to those in Section 123 and the 8th Schedule to the Local Government Act 1929, relating to compensation, no provision being made with regard to the transfer of officers. These provisions, however, were limited to the case of an officer of a local authority "who immediately before the passing of this Act had held office under that Authority for a period of not less than *two years* . . . ." The Ministry of Transport were approached with a view to this limitation being deleted, or, alternatively, the adoption of the course taken in the case of the Local Government Act 1929, namely, restricting the Clause to officers who were officers on the date on which the Bill was introduced. The Ministry were, however, not prepared to amend the Clause in this respect, but intimated that it was open to the Association to raise this point in Committee if they so desired. Sir Herbert Nield, M.P., Mr. Foot, M.P. and Mr. Gibson, M.P., were informed from time to time of the position, but as they were not members of the Standing Committee Sir Basil Peto, M.P., at the instance of Sir Herbert Nield, placed amendments on the paper designed to meet the point and explained the object of the amendments in Committee and pressed for their adoption. The Minister was not, however, prepared to accept the amendments, and they were negatived, the provisions as to compensation standing in the name of the Minister being inserted. These provisions are now contained in the Act—Section 116, Section 119 (6) and the Fourth Schedule.

Public Works Facilities Act.

Under this Act applications may be made by Local Authorities for powers to enable them to execute works which will contribute to the relief of unemployment. Powers will be sought by means of schemes which may be submitted to the Minister of Health or other appropriate Minister, and of which notice will be given by public advertisement.

Schemes of this character will probably not involve matters affecting Local Government Officers, but draft schemes will be scrutinised in case they contained such provisions and action taken if necessary.

Loss of Employment Bill.

The Loss of Employment (Compensation) Bill which was introduced at the end of last Session makes provision for the compensation of employed persons whose employment may be terminated for any reason other than serious and wilful misconduct.

Clause 3 excludes from the operation of the Bill persons serving in an established capacity in the permanent service of a Local Authority for whom statutory provision has already been made.

Civil Service Bonus.

In Circular 1143, dated the 30th August, the Ministry of Health directs the attention of all Local Government Authorities to the fact that from the 1st September, 1930, the Civil Service bonus will be on a basis of an average cost of living figure of 65. After stating that this entails a reduction as compared with the figure for the six months commencing 1st March, 1930, the circular continues:

"In view of the decrease in the Civil Service bonus, it follows that the range within which bonus may be paid by local authorities to those of their officers whose remuneration is subject to the Minister's sanction is correspondingly reduced."

"Officers whose rate of remuneration for non-manual employment falls to or below £250 a year as a result of the decrease in the bonus, will, as from the 1st September, 1930, become liable to compulsory insurance under the National Health Insurance and Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Acts (or, if their employment is covered by a certificate of exception from health insurance under the Contributory Pensions Acts alone).

"The Ready Reckoner (price 2d.) prepared by the Treasury for use in connection with the payment of bonus for the six months commencing on the 1st September, 1928, will be applicable to the six months in question, subject to the substitution of £1,087 5s. 7d. for £1,087 8s. 7d. in column (1) of page 4 of the Reckoner.

Pensions and Bonus.

A reference to the method of calculating pensions, part of which are calculated by reference to a war bonus or other similar allowance was made in the October, 1929, issue page 526, and enquiry was recently made as to the method of calculating such pensions in view of the decision of the Treasury to pay to Civil Servants a bonus based on a cost of living figure 5 points higher than the actual average of the cost-of-living figures. A reply from the Ministry of Health dated 25th August, 1930, is as follows:

"I am, however, to state that the Minister has been informed by the Treasury that during the quarter commencing the 1st July, 1930, awards of pension in respect of bonus calculated on the Civil Service sliding scale which are subject to the provisions of the Treasury minute of the 20th March, 1922, will be computed with reference to a cost of living figure of 65."

The Local Government and other officers Superannuation Act of 1922, Section 7, provides that "any part of a superannuation allowance which is calculated by reference to a war bonus . . . . shall be calculated and liable to variation in accordance with the rules for the time being in force with respect to superannuation allowances of members of His Majesty's Civil Service."

The ruling of the Treasury is given in the reply of the Ministry of Health and that governs the variation under Section 7.

Cost of Living Index Figures.

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months:—April, 57; May, 55; June, 54; July, 55; August, 57; September, 57.

The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:—

	July.	August.	Sept.
Food (7½)	41	44	44
Rent (2)	53	53	53
Clothing (1½)	115	110	110
Fuel and Light (1)	70	70	70
Other Items (½)	75	75	75

The figures in brackets denote the proportion of each item out of a total of 1 as calculated by the Ministry of Labour.

In regard to rent the statistics of the Ministry of Labour make take into account decontrolled rents of working-class dwellings.

The First Nalgo Summer School.

An Appreciation.

By BERTRAM FINCH.

During the course of the Nalgo Summer School at Keble College it was announced that a prize of two guineas would be awarded to the student who submitted the best essay conveying his impressions of the school.

The essay printed on this page has been adjudged the best received, and the prize has been forwarded to Mr. Bertram Finch.

WHAT was it really like? Was it worth while? Who was there? Did it do all it professes? These and many other questions are being asked in a hundred or more branches of Nalgo from whence members attended the First Nalgo Summer School at Keble College, Oxford, the Association's latest and most constructive contribution towards the training of officers of the national Local Civil Service. The answers are not simple, and it is possible only here to refer briefly to the substance of the lectures, much of which is already known to most members of Nalgo, or which has been reported more fully elsewhere; and perhaps a greater purpose would be served in mentioning some of the other notable aspects of the school.

Undoubtedly the principal effect of the School was the great widening of the students' outlook upon and knowledge of Local Government. That broadening influence was manifested in numerous directions, not only in the lectures upon weighty subjects from brilliant teachers and eminent workers in Local Government, but in opportunities for intercourse with other officials and informal discussion of mutual difficulties and experiences.

All Ranks Represented.

It is significant to note that the hundred odd students were drawn from all ranks of the various departments of every type of Local Governing authorities, including members of the "new" Public Assistance staffs. Broad Scotch mingled with Cornish drawl, Cardiff burr and a score of other accents. The staider men and women holding senior posts in the service were no less enthusiastic than their more youthful colleagues. Members coming from the more specialised departments were unable to return without realising that the daily tasks were something broader and nobler than narrow routine, spiced occasionally with departmental rivalry. The proportion of lady students was a happy indication of the attitude taken by women towards a serious study of local government. Among non-Association students were two members of Local Authorities, an expert in Local Government from Berlin, and a Professor of Texas University.

The value and enjoyment of the School were multiplied by one's association with so many kindred spirits. At meals, in the Common Room, in the Quad, ardent discussions led, through more general conversations, to charming friendships; companions of a few days became as close acquaintances of long standing. No one could doubt the earnestness of those who had sacrificed time, holidays, and no little expense in furtherance of professional knowledge; but of solemnity there was little, humour being the order of the day. The epigrams of speakers and the violent questionings of students made the consideration of serious matters entertaining and brimful of expectancy.

Ofttimes were vastly entertaining the whimsical humour of Dr. Robson, and his delicate scorn of the County Council, his hearty contempt of the multitudinous Parish Councils, his outspoken repudiation of the accepted standards of local government law; the repartee of Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., and the genial, bland retorts of Dr. Finer. One heard of the woeful plight of a County Borough Weights and Measures Department labouring unhonoured and unsung in a "Burial Ground" under the vigilance of the Cemeteries Sub-Committee; of the tremendous export of water from Wales; of another borough, striving for higher status, forced to include the inmates of a lunatic asylum in its population; of the boasted superior quality of Scotch Local Government; of the unfortunate river enthusiast who fell overboard; of the man who tried to find a bath in Keble College; and of the talented administrators who were not astute enough to recognise two honeymoon students in their midst. The taking of the School photographs gave ample opportunity to Keble "wags" to vent their feeble humour.

The inaugural Summer School of Nalgo will remain historic, not only because it was the First, but because of the number of illustrious men and women, eminent in official, political and intellectual life, who addressed the School. At the opening dinner, as delightfully informal as all other meals at Keble, the encouraging address of Sir Arthur Robinson, a principal guest, and one of the foremost administrators of the day, the characteristic remarks of our President, and the inspiring words of Mr. E. W. B. Abbott, the Chairman of Nalgo Education Committee, were a three-fold pleasure and inspiration.

Lectures and Tea Talks.

Afternoon "Tea Talks" were given on special subjects—Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., speaking upon the relationship between officials and elected representatives; Mr. G. Montagu Harris, O.B.E., admirably crystallising comparisons between English and foreign officials; Mr. C. J. Jackson discoursing upon Parliamentary Bill Practice, and a broad-minded humanitarian address by Mr. J. J. Clarke upon the principles of Social Administration.

The unstinted applause and musical honours accorded to the principal lecturers were evidence of their popularity. Each won the admiration and affection of the School. Dr. Robson's discussions of some legal aspects and the structure of Local Government, particularly as to the accidentally created doctrines of ultra vires and misfeasance were masterpieces of logical criticism. Even more splendid were his broadminded views upon the needed alteration of areas, the necessity for increased combinations for certain services. Of a different character, but equally as impressive, was Dr. Robson's final talk upon the quality of municipal life, and the neglect of the cultural elements in civic life. Dr. Finer's masterly analysis of the structure of English Local Government, though complementary to Dr. Robson's examination, was approached from a different viewpoint. Mr. Smellie's difficult task of portraying the relationship between Local and Central Authorities won for him the admiration of those who appreciated the complications involved. More fascinating still were his vivid outline descriptions of Local Government in France and the United States, while Dr. Finer's pictures of Local Administration in Germany made one envious of the status and conditions

of service of German colleagues. Russian administrative and industrial conditions, as presented by Mr. E. F. Wise, M.P., were striking in their simplicity.

If Oxford lacks the grandeur of rugged scenery, or of sweeping views, it has many compensations no whit less satisfying to the lover of beauty. Viewed from any of the hilltops encircling the city, Oxford's towers and spires gleam in the sunshine, a spectacle for peaceful meditation, thankfulness and inspiration. Within the city, with its thousand historic associations, the nobility of its architecture, the grandness of its streets, rests much of that civic sense and pride of olden times, which England now needs to recapture. Within the precincts of Keble College itself one was able to absorb much of the atmosphere of University life, and the Association may well be proud of its venture. The untiring genial efficiency of the organisers left nothing further to be desired for the comfort and enjoyment of the School, and their reward is in the knowledge of a task splendidly carried through.

It now remains for members of Nalgo year by year to grasp the opportunities and magnificent privileges offered to them, in order to enrich a service which will one day become the greatest and finest in the world.

Movement of Members

Mr. W. Woodhead, Twickenham, to Accountant, Esher U.D.C.

Mr. W. H. G. Saunders, Islington, to Sanitary Inspector, Stoke Newington.

Mr. H. Fletcher, Twickenham, to Rating Clerk, Barnes U.D.C.

Mr. J. M. Drummond, Burton-on-Trent, to Corporation of Reading.

Mr. R. O. Jones, Bootle, to Relieving Officer, Bath.

Mr. R. J. Sainsbury, Hemel Hempstead, to Erith U.D.C.

Mr. T. B. Clark, Oldham, to Public Health Department, East Ham.

Mr. R. W. Rouse, St. Pancras, to Library Assistant, Lambeth.

Mr. D. G. Rutherford, Bexhill, to Surveyor's Department, Hendon U.D.C.

Mr. H. Carmichael, Ashford, to Engineering Assistant, Leyton.

Mr. C. R. Hitchinson, Birkenhead, to Deputy Borough Surveyor, Exeter.

Mr. B. J. Small, Ashford, to Junior Assistant, Malden and Coombe U.D.C.

Mr. T. E. Willmatt, Cambridge, to Sanitary Inspector, Coventry.

Mr. F. Gander, Brighton, to Borough Surveyor, Hove.

Mr. Mumford, East Suffolk, to Weymouth.

Mr. E. J. W. Lowndes, Kensington, to Assistant, Borough Treasurer's Department, Ealing.

Mr. L. J. Adams, Barnet, to General Assistant, Clerk's Department, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

Mr. H. C. H. Manning, Wandsworth, to Technical Assistant, London County Council.

Mr. H. Mayhew, Fulham, to Clerk, at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mr. N. Greenwood, Kettering, to Deputy Borough Treasurer, Widnes.

Headquarters Telephone Number.

Will members please note that the Telephone Number of Headquarters has been altered to

VICTORIA 6056 (3 lines).

Qualifications and Promotion.

Departmental Committee Appointed.

In pursuance of a recommendation made in the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Local Government, presided over by Lord Onslow, the Minister of Health has appointed a Departmental Committee with the following terms of reference:—

"To inquire into and make recommendations on the qualifications, recruitment, training, and promotion of Local Government Officers." The Committee has been constituted as follows:—

Sir Henry Hadow, C.B.E., J.P. (Chairman), late Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University.

Sir Percival Bower, M.B.E., J.P., Lord Mayor of Birmingham 1924–26. Proposed by Association of Municipal Corporations.

Mr. C. A. Elgood, J.P., Member of Beckenham Urban District Council since 1918. Proposed by Urban District Councils' Association.

Mr. I. G. Gibbon, C.B.E., Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health.

Mr. H. M. Gibson, M.P., Labour M.P. Many years' service to Manchester Corporation. Member of Manchester Branch.

Sir Edward Holland, D.L., J.P., late Chairman of Surrey C.C. Proposed by County Councils' Association.

Mr. Percy Hurd, M.P., Chairman of Rural District Councils' Association.

Alderman William Jenkins, M.P., late member of Glamorgan C.C. Proposed by County Councils' Association.

Professor H. J. Laski, Professor of Political Science in London University.

Lieut-Col. Sir Cecil B. Levita, C.B.E., M.V.O., D.L., J.P. (L.C.C.), Chairman of L.C.C. 1928–29.

Mr. Frank Pick, Managing Director of Underground Railways.

Mr. George Riddle, Director of Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mrs. Eleanor Thompson, Member of Sunderland Rural District Council, co-opted on several Committees of Durham County Council.

Mr. H. Darlaw, Town Clerk of Bedford. Proposed by Association of Municipal Corporations.

The Secretary of the Committee will be Miss E. Sharp, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, to whom all communications on the subject should be addressed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT—*Continued.*

Authority. It may appeal against the Valuation List or against the County rate. It is empowered to provide a parish room, parish library, fire engines and fire escapes. It may also have sanitary powers in conjuncton with the Rural District Council. Loans may be raised, subject to the consent of the Parish Meeting and the County Council, and, of course, the Ministry of Health.

In addition, the Parish Council can administer the Public Libraries, Burial, and Baths and Wash-houses Acts, where it adopts these Acts. It may make representations to the County Council, and it may appeal to the Ministry of Health in matters of default by the District Council. It can act for the District Council as its agent. Finally, it maintains village greens and open spaces, utilises wells and springs for the local water supply, and it is responsible for the repair of footpaths.

NEXT MONTH: The Rural District Council.

Local Government.

By S. OSWALD EVANS, L.A.A. Finalist.

II.—DIVISIONS.

In this, the second of a series of articles, the writer defines Local Government, treats of the divisions and classes of Local Authorities, and describes the working of the Parish Council.

This, the simplest and least powerful unit of civic administration, is shown to be the nucleus around which the present system has evolved.

Before proceeding with the consideration of the Parish Meeting and the Parish Council there are one or two points which should be dealt with, viz :—

Since the publication of last month's article I have been asked what is Local Government. Well, Local Government is, according to one writer, "that part of the government of a nation or state which deals mainly with such matters as concern the inhabitants of a particular district or place and which it is thought desirable should be administered by local authorities, subordinate to Central Government," or, as a second writer puts it, "Local Government is the discharge by a local or other duly constituted authority—generally elective—of various local functions (some partly national, e.g., education) which have been vested in the authority by Parliament or the Common Law." Consideration of these definitions raises the equally important question—What is a Local Authority? We find the answer contained in the Local Government (Emergency Provisions) Act of 1916, viz. :—". . . . any person or body of persons who receive or expend the proceeds of any rate, and any other public body which the Ministry of Health may determine to be a local authority . . . ."

Division of Local Government.

Each local authority, with the exception of the County Borough and the County Council, administers, broadly speaking, a Unit forming a component part of another Authority's area, thus :—The Administrative County contains the areas of the Non-County Boroughs, Urban Districts and Rural Districts. The Non-County Borough and Urban District contain the area of one or more Urban Parishes. The Urban Parish may have a Vestry and a Burial Board. The Rural District contains the area of one or more Rural Parishes. The Rural Parish possesses a Parish Council or a Parish Meeting, and may possess a Burial Board and Lighting Inspectors. Before the advent of the Local Government Act, 1929, the Urban and Rural Parishes were combined into the Poor Law Union.

Parish Meeting.

The Parish was revived as a unit of civic administration by the Local Government Act of 1894, when Parish Meetings and Councils—where the population is over 300—were established in rural parishes. The Parishes now number 14,251, of which 12,801 are Rural Parishes. In the census of 1921 about 2,000 parishes had a population of less than 100, about 6,500 had less than 300 and about 4,600 had between 300 and 1,000. On the other hand, 266 had a population of over 20,000. Parishes may be divided or united with others by order of the County Council, provided such order is confirmed by the Minister of Health.

There are still Urban as well as Rural Parishes, but the functions of an Urban Parish are now mainly ecclesiastical.

The Rural Parish may have a Meeting or a Council. If it has a population of less than 300, it has a Meeting. A Chairman is elected from those present, and questions of local interest are discussed. There must be at least two such meetings in the year. The Parish Meeting may be given the powers of a Parish Council, if there is no Parish Council, by the County Council, and, in the absence of a Parish Council, the Parish Meeting is empowered to appoint two of its number to act as members of the Rating Authority or Committee in regard to the valuation of property in its Parish.

There are numerous other very interesting matters relating to Parish Meetings. For instance, the Parish Meeting cannot levy a rate, it must "precept" on the Rating Authority; then, again, the Parish Meeting Expenditure in any year must not exceed sixpence in the £ (now increased under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, to eightpence). If the Parish Meeting wishes to raise a Loan for works of a general nature, e.g., provision of a Park for its Parishioners, it must first of all receive the consent of the Ministry of Health, and that having been obtained, there is a further limitation, viz :—its indebtedness must not exceed the amount of its assessable value for half a year. (NOTE.—This latter provision has now been abolished under the Local Government Act, 1929.)

Parish Council.

We now come to the next unit of Local Government, the Parish Council. The Parish Council is elected every three years in April. Local Government electors, owners of property in the parish, and residents within the parish or three miles out may be elected. The number of Councillors is from five to fifteen, and is fixed by the County Council. There must be at least four meetings of the Parish Council in a year, and the Chairman is elected each year by the Councillors from within or without the Council. The Council is a corporate body, and one of its chief duties is to hold and administer property belonging to the Parish, and to care for the Parish records and documents. In parishes where there is no Council, parish property is held by a representative body of trustees, usually the Chairman of the Parish Meeting and the parish representatives on the Rural District Council. The Parish Council may appoint a salaried clerk, or an unpaid Councillor may perform the work.

Since the Poor Law Act of 1601 the chief officers of the parishes have been the Overseers of the Poor, who prepared the Valuation Lists and collected the rates, but that work has now passed over to the District, under the provisions of the Rating and Valuation Act of 1925. The Parish Council cannot levy a rate, but like the Parish Meeting, it issues a "precept" on the Rating Authority. Its expenditure is limited in any year to an amount of fourpence in the pound, or, with the consent of the Parish Meeting, to an amount of eightpence in the pound. The accounts of the Parish Council are made up yearly, and are audited by the District Auditor attached to the Ministry of Health. The Parish Council appoints two members of the Rating

(*Continued on page 232.*)

BATH

The City of Hot Springs.

Described by J. REYNOLDS
Chief Clerk, Town Clerk's Office, Bath.

BATH is an ancient City and owes its origin to its hot springs, which have been the chief source of its historic reputation. They have yielded their beneficent supply for certainly nineteen centuries, while legend identifies them with a royal patient as early as 800 B.C., when Prince Bladud, son of the ancient British King Lud Hudibras and father of Shakespeare's King Lear, is said to have bathed in them and received cure of his leprosy. But though the earlier history of Bath may be marked by a mixture of fact and fable, the Roman occupation of Britain takes us altogether out of the realms of the fabulous and leaves us on surer ground.

No doubt exists that the healing waters of Bath were recognised in the first century by the Romans. The magnificent series of thermae which they constructed are to be seen around the area of the springs to-day. For 400 years the Roman City, then called Aquae Solis, was a famous Spa.

The ancient Baths must, from a calculation based on the parts excavated, have covered an area of about 7 acres, and there would be the lounges and pleasure grounds in addition to the palaces and villas of the Roman residents.

After the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain the Baths were allowed to lapse into ruin, although they served to accommodate the Romano-British inhabitants until the City was destroyed by the Saxons in A.D. 577. For centuries these wonderful relics of antiquity remained buried.

In the eighth century a new City was raised under its Saxon name Bathanceaster, and the ruins of the ancient Baths evidently became the quarry out of which the builders, Saxon and Norman, procured material for the Monastery, the City Walls and the Bishop's Palace, which covered a portion of the site. Indeed, stones can be traced in the Abbey Church, rebuilt in 1500 and subsequently, that owed their first shapeliness to Roman hands.

Many of the most important discoveries were made as late as 1882, when the great rectangular bath was uncovered, the site of which was previously occupied by dwelling-houses and shops. The excavations also revealed the Circular Bath, besides many other relics of the period. The springs have flowed on from time undated to this day.

Half a million gallons of health-giving water flow daily. Not only are the Bath waters the only natural hot springs in Britain (their temperature is 120 degrees Fahr.) but they are the richest in radium emanation, and to this property undoubtedly owe in considerable measure their remarkable therapeutic effect.

For many centuries the Hot Springs have been the property of the Corporation, and the Corporation spares no expense in providing the latest scientific methods of treatment and maintaining the Baths in the highest state of efficiency and comfort.

Apart from the healing qualities for which the mineral water is used, the water is served for drinking in the 18th century Pump Room.

Local Government—Old History.

The City of Bath is the possessor of several Charters or Royal Grants, including duplicates and confirmations. There are also Crown Leases, Commissions, Writs and other Crown missives. The earliest Charter is I Richard I (1189).

The citizens of Bath claim to be a Corporation by prescription confirmed by grant. The Charter of I Richard I granted to the Citizens of the Merchant Guild the same freedom from Toll as was enjoyed by the Citizens of the Guild of Winchester.

An exemplification of the charter of I Richard I and 40 Henry III contains the earliest impression of the City Seal. There is no date, but it is probably earlier than 1313, and the same seal is in use to-day.

The Charter of Elizabeth (1590) contains 5 skins of parchment, the margins being beautifully illuminated. Some writers regard the Charter of Elizabeth as the commencement of the municipal system in the City, but the municipal records of a date many years anterior to the Charter furnish proof of the pre-existence.

This Charter gave to the City one privilege not before enjoyed, namely, for the Sergeants at Mace to bear and carry before the Mayor maces of gold or silver engraven and garnished with the sign of the Arms of the Realm.

The Charter of William IV is a grant for the establishment of a separate Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

The Chamberlains' accounts 1569–1733 are on parchment rolls. Later accounts are entered in books.

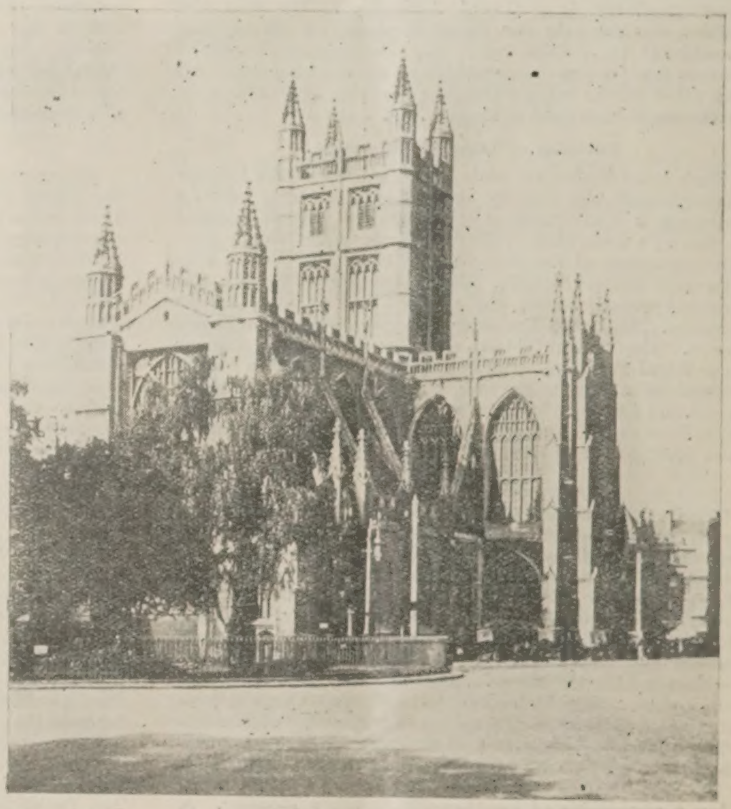
The Council Minute books date from 1613.

The roll of Mayors of Bath commence with the year 1230.

The Guildhall of 1569 erected in the midst of the High Street has long since been swept away. It was rebuilt in 1625, and again in 1777, and extended in 1893.

The Council consisted of the Mayor and

(*Continued on page 243.*)



Photo] The Abbey, Bath. [*W. E. Eyles.*

The Nalgo Cruise.

The Holiday of a Lifetime.

THREE weeks' golden sunshine and glorious blue sea. Three weeks of pleasant and spacious captivity on the good ship "Ardeola"—the holiday of a life-time! We left Liverpool in dismal rain and returned to dismal rain. We were told it had rained all the time we were away. We had not known it.

We were seven days reaching Tangier. Except for a fleeting glimpse of the Irish coast we saw no land until the fifth day, when Cintra came in view. The uninitiated might suspect that our trip was tedious. He would be wrong.

Our first port of call was Tangier. Dark-skinned, be-fezzed, be-sandalled men come aboard, the guides on our organised excursion. From boats others seek our patronage. We enter a new continent which is a new world. Soon we are touring around Tangier by motor, enjoying a wealth of new experience. After the outskirts, the centre; narrow streets and indubitable smells. Would-be guides are legion; we are pressed to buy all manner of articles at prices which bear no relation to those we eventually pay; countless children beg our pennies; snake charmers strive to charm us. And we shall never forget the native market place with its medley of goods, sounds and smells. Some of us decide to bathe and discover the warm comfortable bathing we have looked for for years.

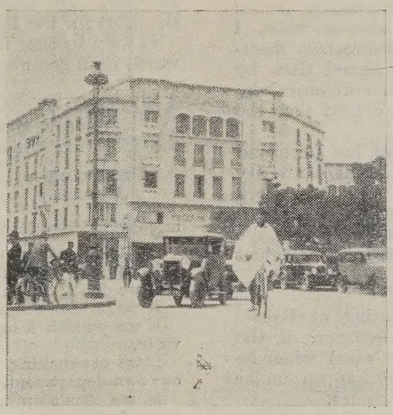
Casablanca.

Next day, Casablanca. On our first day we go nearly 70 miles to Rabat, with its fine shops and buildings, its old native town, and at its door the old pirate town of Sali. Our second day quickly goes as we explore Casablanca, old and new. We find attractive shops, delightful cafés, thieving taxi-drivers, shady boulevards. We might be in Paris, but in Paris the motor 'buses are not filled with white-robed Arabs and veiled women.

And then good-bye Casablanca and Morocco and two days' sail to Santa Cruz, Tenerife. We welcome the sea and our ship again. It is almost like returning home, though at home we do not find these delightful tropical nights with wonderful star-lit skies.

Tenerife comes as a welcome contrast to Morocco. The Spanish town of Santa Cruz, sunny and clean, free from the persistent tout and beggar, seems somehow a happier, more urbane place than the ports we saw in Africa. We are quickly off in motors for perhaps the most enjoyable excursion of the holiday, along a winding, hilly road, with bananas, bananas everywhere, to Orotava on the other side of the island. We are almost surfeited with the beauty of tropical flowers and palms en route. At night we sit outside one of the many cafés in Santa Cruz sipping Muscatel (at 1s. 6d. a bottle).

After that, Las Palmas in Gran Canary, the capital of the Canaries and a fine city. We are soon off in the inevitable motor car. Our first visit is to the



Casablanca.

interesting cathedral—from its tower we get a fine view of the town and harbour—then on to Monte and the cave dwellers of Atalaya. We are back in time to enjoy the bathing at Las Palmas beach and at night privileged to dance at the Club Nautico, and to have the passengers of the "Alondra" as our guests. Our stay in Las Palmas is too short.

A day's sail and then Madeira! We expected a glorious island. It is better than we expected. Funchal, with its flowers and fruits and bullock carts. Once more the waiting motors. This time an exciting ride to the Monte Palace Hotel, 2,000 feet up, with Funchal below—a view ever to be remembered—and our good ship at anchor in the bay. We gladly idle away an hour with such a scene, and then, lunch over, toboggan down the pebbled mountain road guided safely by hot, but not bothered, runners. Many of us slide along in bullock carts to Reid's Hotel to tea and regret that we cannot stay to enjoy more of its beautiful garden overlooking the magnificent bay. But we sail at 6 o'clock.

Our holidays were by no means over. We had four days' sail ahead. We lazed in deck chairs, finished our competitions, cemented friendships, chewed the cud of our experiences, continued the yarning and leg pulling. Then our final concert and prize distribution. We auctioned the ship's chart and articles of feminine wear generously given by two lady passengers; our fortune-teller hands in the reward of her magic art—all for ships' charities. Warm tribute is paid to N.A.L.G.O. We thank our friendly skipper, Captain Martin, the ever-cheerful chief steward Eccles, our ship's doctor, always gracious and cheery, the officers and crew who never rested in ministering to our every want. They have done nobly.

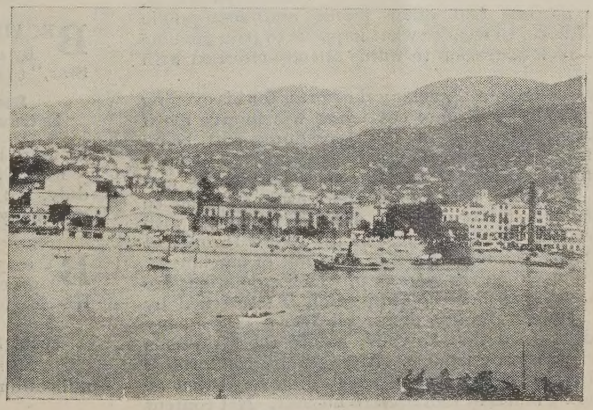
We travelled nearly 4,000 miles. There were not two opinions. We had the holiday of a life-time.

Dances at Caxton Hall.

THE Metropolitan District Committee Dances this season will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster (near St. James' Park Underground Station), on Monday, December 1st, 1930, 7.30 to 11.45; Monday, March 2nd, 1931, 7.30 to 11.45. Those who attended the Dances last season will know what a great success they were. Members are asked to reserve these dates and to give early intimation to their Branch Secretaries of the number of tickets required.

The Secretary of the Sports and Recreations Sub-Committee, Mr. W. H. Lakin, Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3, asks that Branches will endeavour to keep these dates clear of local functions. He will be circulating handbills and admission tickets in due course.

The D.O.S. has interviewed the Finance Committee of the Jarrow Corporation in respect of the adoption of the Superannuation Act. The Committee decided not to recommend the Council to adopt at the present time.



Madeira.

Odds and Ends.

WHEN people talk to me of the inefficiency of officials and deride the manner in which they are "swathed in red tape" I take comfort from the fact that the vaunted efficiency of some commercial concerns is not always borne out by actual experience. Recently, for instance, I read of two companies in which minutes of directors' meetings were written up months later and signed then by directors who had not attended. In one case directors who had been present at a particular meeting denied that the minutes recorded the real decisions.

Business-like and Efficient.

I do not put these cases forward as typical, but I contend that such things could not happen in a Local Authority where the chairman, a chief official and a committee clerk are normally recording decisions independently.

With all respect to the business man, but with complete firmness, I contend that this is the better and more efficient way.

* * * *

DURING the British Association meeting at Bristol Professor Leonard Hill gave an instance of the danger of civic celebrations (fortunately rare) when he illustrated what might happen under rapid changes of air pressure.

A Blow Out.

A tube tunnel had been completed in New York, and the City Fathers decided to celebrate by holding a champagne luncheon in the tunnel. When the champagne was opened it failed to fizz. The majority of the City Fathers thought it must be flat and undrinkable, but one tasted it, found it easy to drink, and had nearly half a bottle.

He replaced the cork and put the bottle with the remaining half in his pocket.

When the City Fathers returned to the surface the cork blew out of the bottle with a report like a gun and hit an alderman. The half-bottle inside the City Father immediately released all its CO^2 and the City Father nearly burst.

I had always regarded pride as the most inflative agency experienced by Councillors.

* * * *

IT seems to me that there has been a good deal of unofficial inspection of casual wards recently. Without criticising in any way the official report on the accommodation at and management of casual wards, I am convinced that many of the stories which have appeared in the newspapers are written to a policy and on insufficient evidence.

Amateur Casuals.

We have had the experiences of M.P.'s, ex-M.P.'s, journalists, parsons and other public and semi-public persons till I begin to wonder what happens to poor genuine casuals who seek admission to wards already crowded with investigators.

I can imagine the master asking the porter for his evening return (my Public Assistance colleagues will forgive me if I have guessed wrongly at the procedure) and being informed that the casual ward contains "1 M.P., 3 journalists, 2 parsons, 5 miscellaneous busybodies and 1 tramp." In such a case were I the master I should be tempted to instruct the porter to dismiss the tramp with half a crown and to put the rest of the crowd through it by administering the regulations to the limit of harshness.

A lot can depend on the manner in which regulations are carried out and whether the application is sweetened by sympathy. During the late demented War a man in my "crowd" discovered that he could induce the symptoms of some serious gastric trouble. After several comfortable periods in hospital a keen-eyed surgeon discovered that he was malingering and sent him back to his unit. Not content with cutting short his period of rest the surgeon detailed the circumstances on the man's Medical History Sheet, ending as follows: "Recommendation—a sufficiency of work and exercise under unsympathetic administration." Those of you who were in the Army will realise the joy with which the least loved N.C.O. undertook to oversee this work and exercise. The man was positively joyful when he joined the draft for the Front.

It may be that investigators get less sympathy in casual wards than genuine casuals.

* * * *

WITHOUT any comment at all beyond the innocent remark that it may appear topical I reproduce the following which appeared in the "Municipal Review of Canada," which had lifted it from "The Canadian Purchaser," which had itself lifted it from some unacknowledged source.

Producing a Journal.

"Getting out a paper is no picnic.
If we print jokes, folks say we are silly.
If we don't, they say we are too serious.
If we publish original matter, they say we lack variety.
If we publish things from other papers, we are too lazy to write.
If we are rustling news, we are not attending to business in our own department.
If we don't print contributions, we don't show proper appreciation.
If we do print them, the paper is filled with junk.
Like as not some fellow will say we purloined this from another paper.
We did—and we thank him."

* * * *

A FIERCE controversy broke out early in September between the holiday towns of the North and those of the South, the argument centering on the relative cost of living. It arose in consequence of the appointment of Mr. Eustace Dunbavand, engineer and surveyor to the Filey U.D.C., to the surveyorship at Ventnor. Before accepting the post Mr. Dunbavand cautiously sent his wife to Ventnor to prospect and on her report informed the Council that necessities as well as housing charges were much above those current in Filey and that he could not therefore accept the post at the salary offered.

Cost of Living.

Now I am not concerned with the indignation of Ventnor or the self-satisfaction of Filey, but I *am* wondering whether the controversy may not spread and lead to a demand for localised Cost of Living Figures. If so it would be well to work in a dear area and live in a cheap one.

A colleague of strong local patriotism asks me to state that it is worth more to live in the South.

* * * *

BECAUSE Fairlie Glen, Ayrshire, is so much frequented by courting couples it has been decided, states "The Star," to erect seats there to accommodate only two persons. It is considered that the present seats built for six are a waste of material, as they are seldom occupied by more than two people at a time.

Scotch Extravagance.

I do not wish to influence the responsible authority unduly, but I would respectfully point out that a seat for one can easily provide ample room for a courting couple.

* * * *

BY a typographical error in printing the King's opening speech at the naval parley, an Irish newspaper has His Majesty calling for "early reduction of arguments throughout the world." If that could be accomplished, it would not merely reduce armaments, but would bring the millennium.—*Winnipeg Tribune.*

Least Said.

PETER SUCH.

Musings.

By EPPI LOGGE.

WITH the close of September we can assume the close of the holiday season for 1930, excepting of course for those fortunate people who have kept a few days up their sleeve which they hope to tack on to the Christmas holidays for the Winter Sports in Switzerland.

But they are not of ordinary stuff. They seem just a trifle superior and it is unkind of them to mention it to a colleague who has spent every halfpenny on giving his much harassed wife and robust family a holiday at Scarborough or Blackpool, or Margate, whichever place could be reached on the minimum initial outlay on railway fares. Seven or eight railway tickets, even though two or three may be only half-fares, add up to an item to be given serious thought. To some no doubt getting back to the office is a rest, but should any self-respecting man or woman claim genuine pleasure in going back to work ? It goes hard for the first few days. We seem to be carbonizing differently, especially when we have returned whilst one or two have still to go away. When we are all back we seem to be on level pegging and the thing becomes easier. I hate those people who put off their holidays until the middle of September, and I always think that when they were young and the family sweets had been equally distributed, they were the ones who saved their portions until the last, just to have the pleasure of sucking them when their brothers' and sisters' were gone.

* * *

THE Editor of "Punch" has very kindly given me permission to reprint the following which appeared in a recent edition of that delightful weekly contributor to the joy of living :—

"YE OLDE ENGLYSHE RATEPAYER.

Like most other people I have long thought that there was something the matter with my income-tax—a little tight under the arms, perhaps, or knocking rather badly on the top speeds. Now, thanks to some recent remarks of Mr. K. B. Smellie of the London School of Economics to the Association of Local Government Officers, I know what the real trouble is. This income-tax is an upstart, a mere parvenu ; rates represent the real old county stock, the fine old English gentleman. 'I don't know whether you have ever considered,' said Mr. Smellie, 'the extraordinary pedigree of rates ; they have all the dignity of Elizabethan ancestors. On the other hand Mr. Gladstone used to apologise for imposing income-tax in time of peace.'

There you have it. There is something rash and adventurous about paying rates, but nothing except a grim Victorian grind about the melancholy process of meeting an income-tax demand. The one affair has a pedigree behind it ; the other nothing but a pettifogging persistence. Henceforward I shall feel like a rollicking sea-rover as I swashbuckle forth to meet my ancestral and Elizabethan liability for 'Sewerage and Sewage Disposal'. (I quote from the back of the last document of this nature received), 'Maintenance and Scavenging of Highways,' 'Public Lighting and Public Clock' and all the other jolly little reminders of life in the spacious days of Good Queen Bess. In fact I shall probably sing a little song or sea-chantey as I go :—

When Drake sailed out of Devon, boys,
His lads had rates to pay,
In 1577, boys,
Like we have got to-day ;
So when they made another raid
They said, as they wiped their skewers,
"Well, that's a bit for the Fire Brigade,
The Public Clock and Sewers."

When Drake was out for gain, my lads,
His tars were merry friskers ;
They sailed the Spanish main, my lads,
And singed King Philip's whiskers ;
But they always said, when they took a chance
In its richer creeks and by-ways,
"Well, that's a bit for the Ambulance
And the Scavenging of Highways !"

When Drake set out to raid and burn
He left behind all fears,
Though I shouldn't be surprised to learn
His rates were in arrears ;
But he found the foe and he joined in the fray
Where he did great execution,
And he came back quite prepared to pay
The County Contribution.

So I, my lads, like another Drake
Go forth to do my duty,
And a payment ("on a/c") I make
For England, Home and Beauty ;
For the man has been (and I certainly know
What his good old English call meant),
So it's Westward Ho ! and away I go
To pay my first instalment !

All things considered I do not think it is at all possible to work oneself up into that frame of mind about income-tax ; the eminently respectable and even sympathetic figure of Mr. Gladstone lends itself to no such mood of poesy and patriotism. Do you not agree, fellow-Elizabethans ?"

* * *

OUR New Zealand contemporary "The Board and Council" reported in a recent issue that the Timaru Borough Council had, by a narrow majority, decided to throw out a motion proposing in effect, to allow games to be played on Sundays in the parks under the council's jurisdiction. It was felt "there must be some restriction to prevent a lapse into Continental Sunday."

There is a delightful touch in the expression "to prevent a lapse into Continental Sunday." And doesn't it bring home to us how typically British is the outlook and temper of our New Zealand relatives. I wonder, though, whether the speaker was a Manchester man, or whether he was referring to Australia ! Most of us who were moulded in Victoria's days can well remember how genuine was the horror of ever allowing the English Sabbath to become a "Continental Sunday." O ! for the days when it was the hall-mark of English respectability to put on a frock coat and silk hat on Sunday and do the proper thing both morning and evening. On Sunday morning we men had to go alone because the wives were cooking the joint, and the puddin'—another typically English Sunday festival. There was an "Ah Bisto !" atmosphere in every street, road, and avenue. You could smell a non-continental Sunday ! The question which arises is whether the change from the days of my youth to the present time is not of a more general character. Surely the whole trend of youth is a revolt against humbug. The demand for facilities for healthy game playing on Sundays is not an attack upon religion, but the urge which comes from healthy minds. Every day should be a Sunday, with one day a week for rest—which means, to many, recreation !

"Maud, Maud, Maud —
The girl who has studied abroad,
She plays the piano
And warbles soprano,
Her parents stand by and applaud."

The I.M.T.A.

How It Began.

By JOHN ELLIOTT.

Accounts of the birth and progress of institutions are always interesting, and this article by Mr. John Elliott, in the "Financial Circular," on the efforts and events which led to the founding of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants is a graphic contribution to the history of organisation in the Service.

My attention has been drawn to a speech of ex-Alderman Twigg, of Rotherham, in which he stated that the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants was born in Rotherham. Whilst I would like to give full credit to Rotherham, and particularly to the late Charles H. Moss, the then Borough Accountant, the Institute was really born in Rochdale, when I was its Borough Treasurer, in the following circumstances, with which Mr. Moss was closely concerned.

Early in the year 1885 I had occasion to visit the Borough Accountant of Rotherham to purchase an amount of Rotherham Corporation Stock. After our business was completed we naturally had a talk about our work, when I mentioned that, although only a young Municipal Treasurer, I had much correspondence with chief financial officers seeking information and advice in connection with their duties. I suggested to him that it seemed desirable that municipal treasurers and accountants should have an association where its members could confer on questions frequently arising in the course of business. I asked his opinion on the suggestion, and he heartily agreed. He further suggested that I should take the matter up, and when I put it that I was only a young man, he said in his opinion there was no one more likely to do the work. I then said, "If I convene a provisional meeting in Rochdale, will you come?" He promised to come.

The First Steps.

On my way home I called on Mr. Benjamin Jones, the City Accountant of Sheffield, who fell in with my proposal, and agreed to come to Rochdale. I then wrote to Messrs. George Swainson, of Bolton, J. H. Bailey, of Blackburn, John E. Bryan, of Nottingham, and Samuel C. Potts, of Huddersfield, asking them with the other two before-mentioned to join me in forming a provisional committee for the institution of an association of treasurers and accountants.

The events of the next few months can, I think, be best gathered from the following report, which was read by me at the Inaugural Meeting of the Institute, held in the Town Hall, Manchester, on the 8th December, 1885:

"The first step towards the formation of this Association was taken so long ago as March last, when I wrote to a few gentlemen with whom I was more or less intimately acquainted, asking them to join me in forming a Provisional Committee. Each gentleman replied favourably, and a Committee was thus formed. I then drafted a rough Constitution, and, after considerable correspondence the Draft Constitution attached to the circular of 1st August last was adopted provisionally.

The circular referred to was sent to the Treasurer or Accountant of each City or Borough in England and Wales of not less than 20,000 inhabitants. Several of the new Boroughs do not appear to have such officials other than their Bankers, and in such cases no circular was sent.

In response to the circular, some sixty consents to join the Association were received, which is equal to 75 per cent. of those invited.

My own intention, when the circular was issued, was, provided a goodly number agreed to join the Association, to call, without delay, a meeting similar to this of to-day; but it was strongly urged, notably by Mr. Pace, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, that before proceeding further, we ought to secure the adhesion of the Treasurers of Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester, with a view to one of these gentlemen becoming the first President of the Institute. I personally saw the Treasurers of Liverpool and Manchester, and laid the whole matter before them. They both, however, but for very different reasons, declined to join.

A meeting of the Provisional Committee was held at the Town Hall, Rochdale, on the 14th day of October, 1885, at 2.0 p.m., when there were present Messrs. Swainson, Jones, Bryan, Potts, Bailey, Moss and Elliott.

It was resolved:—

1. That an Association, to be called "The Corporate Treasurers' and Accountants' Institute," be formed.

2. That the draft Constitution issued with the circular of 1st August last be adopted provisionally.

3. That the following constitute the Provisional Committee, namely: Messrs. Pace, Swainson, Jones, Bryan, Potts, Bailey, Moss, Mercer and Elliott, and that the last named be Secretary, *pro tem.*

4. That a General Meeting of [illegible] who have consented to join the Institute be convened in Manchester on the 8th day of December, 1885.

Since the above meeting, Mr. Bryan and Mr. Swainson have both written to Mr. Hughes, Borough Treasurer of Birmingham, with a view to his becoming first President of the Institute, but he declined the honour, promising, however, to assist the Institute in any other way possible."

The following is the original Constitution of the Institute:—

Constitution.

1. The Association is named "The Corporate Treasurers' and Accountants' Institute," and shall consist of Members and Associate Members.

2. The Institute is established for the discussion of questions relating to Corporate Finances and Accounts, the interchange of opinions and experience, and generally to promote the efficiency of its Members.

3. No person shall be eligible for Membership who is not at the date of his application the responsible Officer in charge of the Accounts of a Municipal Corporation, County Board, or other similar authority.

4. No person shall be elected an Associate who does not, at the time of his application, hold an important position in the Treasurer's or Accountant's Department of some local authority.

5. Members and Associates shall be admitted by the Committee from time to time.

6. An Entrance Fee of 5s. shall be paid by each Member or Associate on his admission, and a subscription of 5s. in each year.

7. The Annual Meetings of the Institute shall be held in the month of June.

8. A President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, shall be elected at each Annual Meeting.

9. The Committee of the Institute shall consist of the Officers for the time being, and six Members elected at each Annual Meeting, two of whom shall retire annually and shall not be eligible for re-election until the expiration of two years.

10. Notice in writing shall be given to every Member of the Institute, at least one month before the Annual Meeting, of any proposed addition to, or alteration of, the foregoing rules.

Mr. J. Reynolds, Chief Clerk in the Town Clerk's Department, Bath, has completed 50 years' service with the Bath Corporation. A presentation of an oak chiming clock was made to Mr. Reynolds by the Town Clerk and staff to commemorate the jubilee, and the City Council at their last meeting placed upon record their hearty congratulations to him. Mr. Reynolds, who is a keen member of Nalgo, has served under four Town Clerks, and the fact that he has been with the same Municipality for fifty years is remarkable.

'Help Yourself' Society

Commences this Month,

PREPARATIONS are being made at Headquarters for another record sale of "Help Yourself" Annuals this year on behalf of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. Orders are coming in rapidly, and at the time of going to press nearly 26,000 had been definitely bespoken. This is good, but a long way off 40,000, which is the number we have purchased and must sell. A sum of £3,000 will be raised for the Fund if we can dispose of this number. Any unsold copies will be a direct loss to the B. & O. Fund.

2,000 HELPERS WANTED.

We are urgently in need of 2,000 N.A.L.G.O. members who will each sell 20 Annuals. In the past Sellers have experienced no difficulty in disposing of their copies because :—

(1) For every 2s. 6d. Annual sold the B. & O. Fund benefits to the extent of 1s. 6d.

(2) The Annual is excellent value for money, being a magazine full of bright, interesting stories by prominent writers, and cartoons, etc.

(3) Every purchaser of an Annual participates in a free distribution of £20,000 worth of gifts, which includes motor cars, motor cycles, furniture, and other useful gifts of every description.

If you will sell 20 of these Annuals kindly notify your Branch Secretary immediately. They will be delivered to him, carriage free, together with literature describing the scheme.

FREE CHRISTMAS BOXES.

Every N.A.L.G.O. member who sells 20 Annuals will be presented with a Christmas Box value 5s. As soon as a Seller has disposed of his Annuals he should hand the amount collected, together with receipt counterfoils, to his Branch Secretary, who will immediately request Headquarters to have a Christmas Box despatched.

WHEN TO COMMENCE SELLING.

No Hospital or Charity must commence selling Annuals before Wednesday, October 15th, and the last date is Wednesday, November 26th—a period of six weeks. Failure to observe this rule may result in the Fund being excluded from the scheme next year.

The Forum.

NECESSITY OF READING.

I AM a member of the "Nalgo," and I have read your extracts from the lectures, etc., given to the Nalgo Summer School at Keble College, Oxford. One of the lecturers is reported to have said :—

"Usually doctors are 30 years behind the knowledge of their time because they do not read. As the proximity of their student days diminishes, so does their ignorance grow."

It is not quite clear who made this astounding observation, but I should like to know on what grounds the individual concerned bases his ridiculous and childish statement. It is not only grossly untrue, but it is a deliberate insult to the medical men responsible for Public Health administration. If this is the sort of nonsense which is "dished out" to the students of the Summer School it may not be such a "fine experiment" after all.—HENRY WHITEHEAD, *Medical Officer of Health, Wigan.*

[The statement complained of was made by Dr. Herman Finer.]

'TAKE UP PELMANISM'

Sir John Foster Fraser's Appeal—How to Kill Depression and Morbid Thoughts.

SIR JOHN FOSTER FRASER, F.R.G.S., the well-known author and special correspondent, is a great believer in the value of Pelmanism. 'Pelmanism is genuinely scientific,' he says. 'It brings swiftness to the young and brightens and sharpens the man who thinks decay is laying hold of him. It will not make the dunderhead into a statesman, but it will and does provide a plan whereby we can make the best of our qualities.'

The Pelman Course contains the results of the latest Psychological discoveries and is fully explained in a book entitled 'The Efficient Mind,' a copy of which can be obtained, free of cost, by any reader who writes for it to-day.

A course of Pelmanism brings out the mind's latent powers and develops them to the highest point of efficiency. It banishes such weaknesses and defects as—Depression, Shyness, Timidity, Forgetfulness, Boredom, The Worry Habit, Unnecessary Fears, Indefiniteness, Mind-Wandering, The 'Inferiority Complex' Indecision, Weakness of Will, Pessimism, Procrastination, Brain Fag, Morbid Thoughts, which interfere with the effective working-power of the mind, and in their place it develops strong, positive, vital qualities such as :—Concentration, Observation, Optimism, Cheerfulness, Judgment, Initiative, Will-Power, Decision, Originality, Resourcefulness, Organising Power, Directive Ability, Presence of Mind, Courage, Self-Confidence, Self-Control, Tact, Reliability, Driving Force, Business Acumen, and a Reliable Memory.

By developing these qualities you add to your Efficiency and consequently to your Earning Power.

What is equally important (as a result of cultivating your senses, getting your mind in order and acquiring a healthy mental outlook), you also increase your happiness and develop a finer appreciation of the beauties of Nature, the Arts, and Life generally.

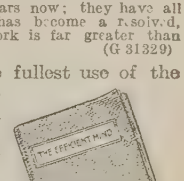
In a sentence, Pelmanism enables you to live a fuller, richer, happier, and more successful existence.

This is borne out by the letters received from those who have taken the Course, many of which are quoted in 'The Efficient Mind.'

A TEACHER writes: "I have more self-confidence and am not so subject to fits of depression." (D 32263)

A BUSINESS MAN writes: "I have no fears now; they have all disappeared. My rather timid disposition has become a resolved, determined disposition. My capacity for work is far greater than that of a year ago." (G 31329)

If, therefore, you wish to make the fullest use of the powers now lying latent or only semi-developed in your mind, you should send to-day for a free copy of this most interesting book. Write to-day to the Pelman Institute, 176, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1, and by return you will receive a free copy of 'The Efficient Mind,' and particulars enabling you to enrol for a course of Pelmanism on specially convenient terms. Call or write for this free book to-day.



Readers who can call at the Institute will be cordially welcomed. The Chief Consultant will be delighted to have a talk with them, and no fee will be charged for his advice.

Overseas Branches : PARIS : 35, Rue Boissy d'Anglas. NEW YORK : 71, West 45th Street. MELBOURNE : 396, Flinders Lane. DURBAN : Natal Bank Chambers. DELHI : 10, Alipore Road. CALCUTTA : 57, Park Street.

Transferred Officers.

L.C.C. Dual Salary Scales.

In February, 1930, after long negotiations the Joint Committee of Council and Staff agreed to a post-war inclusive basis of salaries by which all bonus was merged, and the figures in the scale were increased. The settlement was stated to take into consideration "the adequacy or otherwise of the bonus that had been paid" and the "economic changes in the last fifteen years." It was indicated that new scales would be framed for application to recruits who enter the Service on and after 1st April, 1930.

No reference was made in the reports either in February or again in April when the scale for recruits was adopted that transferred officers would on assimilation be placed in the new scales applicable to recruits which are less favourable than the scales adopted in February.

At an interview which the Chief Organising Secretary (Mr. Fox) and other representatives from the Executive Committee of the N.A.L.G.O., L.C.C. Branch had with the Clerk of the County Council, on the 29th April, the latter gave a ruling that the lower scale would apply to transferred officers as being new entrants to the Service on the 1st April, 1930. A strong protest was made at the time and after careful consideration of the position the following letter of protest was forwarded:—

Scales of Salary for transferred officers.

"Adverting to your letter of the 5th ultimo, which confirms the statement made at our interview on the 29th April to the effect that as transferred officers were not in the Council's Service before 1st April, 1930, they would be placed upon new scales approved by the Council on 1st and 2nd April, 1930, I am instructed to enter a very emphatic protest at the proposal to treat transferred officers as 'new entrants' and in a less favourable manner than the officers who were in the employ of the County Council prior to that date.

"You will be fully aware that the maxima of the scales adopted on the 1st April are in general about £40 less than those of the scales applicable to the Staff of the Council, and which appeared in the Council Minutes of the 4th February, 1930. In those Minutes it is stated that the scales do not apply to new entrants to the Service, and that new scales are being framed for application to *recruits*. In the April Minutes it is simply stated that the new scales apply to officers who enter the Service on and after the 1st April.

"From such information as it has been possible to obtain, it would not appear that the question of transferred officers was considered in connection with the application of the lower and later scale, and the Minutes themselves do not refer to such officers and would lead any reader to believe that the new scale was to be confined to recruits to the service.

"The following submissions are made:—

I.—That no deliberate decision that transferred officers should come under the lower scale was included in the agreement of the Joint Committee of Staff and Council.

II.—That the Staff Side Representatives on that Committee were not representative of transferred officers and could not enter into an agreement on their behalf.

III. That transferred officers cannot be regarded as 'recruits.'

IV. That when the lower scale was submitted to the County Council on 1st-2nd April, the members would not, in the absence of any specific Minute to that effect, consider that transferred officers would be affected by that scale which was to apply to 'Officers who enter the service on and after 1st April.' The report contains no reference to transferred officers.

V.—That transferred officers, a large proportion of whom have a long and honourable record of Public Service, cannot, on account of a change in the name of their immediate employers, be regarded as new entrants to the Service.

VI.—That as transferred officers come under the County Council as the result of legislation and for reasons of Public policy, it is neither wise nor equitable, to place them on lower scales, the operation of which, even in connection with promotions, will perpetuate inferiority in treatment, and impose a penalty attaching to the transferred officer to the end of his service with the County Council.

VII.—It is submitted that the education, training and status of transferred officers generally is such that no differentiation can be made. Already there is no dividing line between the duties assigned to the two bodies of officers, *i.e.*, old L.C.C. Staff are engaged on the administration of transferred services and vice versa.

VIII.—Differentiation will lead to feelings of resentment which will militate against efficiency and cause friction between the members of the amalgamated staffs.

IX.—The Chairman of the County Council at a meeting of Poor Law Staffs on the 31st March last, assured his audience that on transfer they would be treated fairly and with no sense of inferiority as compared with the existing staff of the Council.

"I beg to ask for reconsideration by the Council or appropriate Committee of the interpretation placed upon the Minutes of 1st-2nd April, 1930, contained in your letter of the 5th May.

"I further respectfully ask that the appropriate Committee will, at its next meeting, receive a deputation from the Association on the subject matter of this letter, and that you will give me the longest possible notice of the date when the deputation will be received."

A deputation from the N.A.L.G.O., L.C.C. Branch, attended before the Establishment Committee on the 17th July, 1930. Mr. Fox, who stated the case, was supported by Mr. P. N. G. Robinson, Barrister-at-Law, and Mr. Gordon Miles, F.I.A., Members of the Branch Executive Committee, when the points mentioned in the letter were emphasised and the Council was urged to place a human and equitable, rather than a strictly legal, interpretation on the reports. It was pointed out that there was every inference from the reports themselves that the new and lower scales would apply to "recruits" and that it would be inequitable and detrimental to harmony and efficiency if transferred officers were for the whole of their working lives under the County Council to suffer loss of prestige and pay by being treated as "recruits," particularly as the differentiation would continue to apply even if promoted to a higher grade.

The adequacy of the lower scale was criticised, as in the General Grade, instead of proceeding to a maximum of £338 per annum as the officers already in the London County Council service prior to April would do, the scale was divided for new entrants with maxima respectively of £234 and £312.

The practice of the County Council to settle matters of remuneration in a constitutional way after consideration with representatives of those concerned had been violated in this instance, and it was asked that the higher scale should apply and that there should be consultation between representatives of the Council and the Association before

the assimilation of the transferred officers was carried into effect later in the year.

A full note of the case presented by the Deputation was taken, but at the time of writing no reply has been received to the representations.

This is not the only question on which the action of the County Council in regard to transferred officers has provoked protest. A similar situation arose in regard to the question of superannuation, where it was proposed to bring the transferred officers (who did not elect to remain under the Act of 1896) under the Council's Superannuation and Provident Fund on a contribution basis of 5 per cent.

In that instance the Staff Association had secured through the Joint Committee of Council and Staff the retention of preferential terms for existing officers, the higher contribution to be paid by entrants into the scheme after a particular date. This would have brought the transferred officers into the position of "new entrants." This was over-ruled on appeal to the Minister of Health, who amended the scheme to provide that contributions should be 2½ per cent., 3 per cent. or 3½ per cent. according to length of service at the date of transfers.

Overtime.

In one Department of the London County Council some of the transferred officers required to stay after ordinary hours were not being paid tea money in accordance with the regulations of their former employers or of the County Council. As the result of representations, instructions were given for the appropriate payment to be made.

North-Western District.

The Town Clerk and the City Treasurer of Liverpool, have been asked to meet the Divisional Organising Secretary with regard to the question of superannuation of transferred officers. The representations concern officers transferred under Section 119, including nurses and officers who contracted out under the 1896 Act, and officers appointed between 12th November, 1928, and 31st March, 1930, and officers appointed since 1st April, 1930

Representations have been made to the Caernarvon County Council regarding the inadequate salary offered for the post of Relieving Officer.

Protest has been made by the Association regarding statements made in a letter (which has been circulated in the press) by Alderman Ellis Davies, the Vice-Chairman of the Caernarvonshire Public Assistance Committee. Reflections were cast in the letter at the work of the Medical Officers and at the way in which the Relieving Officers carried out their duties Transferred Poor Law Officers in Caernarvonshire have expressed their pleasure at the step taken by the Association in the matter.

Nalgo Diary, 1931,

Supplies of the Nalgo Diary for 1931 (price 1s. 6d.) will be available next month.

The Diary has been improved and is of considerably higher quality than previous issues. As the supply is limited members are advised to order early from Branch Secretaries.

Insurances.

The attention of readers desiring any class of insurance is directed to the announcement on page ii of the cover which offers a substantial saving by insuring through the Local Government Guarantee Society, 7, 8 and 9, St. James's Street, S.W.1. [ADVT.]

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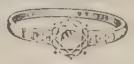

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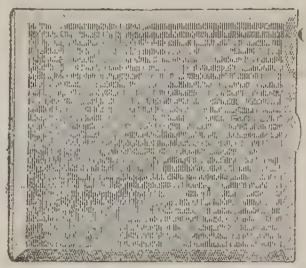

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Students' Notes.

This is the little sketch which has been chosen for the front cover of the new booklet of Nalgo Correspondence Institute courses.

All up and down the United Kingdom students are dusting their books and preparing for their studies in the coming months. Many of them will have made arrangements for their coaching, but those who have not or are undecided what to do ought to write to the Nalgo Correspondence Institute for a copy of the Autumn Programme, which describes in outline the assistance the Institute can give in connection with all municipal examinations. Recently many alterations and improvements have been made in the courses as the result of experience, and many more are in the course of being applied.

Libraries.

A suggestion has come from one of the Metropolitan Branches which might be of interest to students elsewhere. This Branch obtained the co-operation of the Committee of the Local Library, who agreed to add to the shelves a certain number of books of use to local government students. Headquarters of the Association supplied a suggested list of books which have been bought for this purpose. The Association will be pleased to make similar suggestions wherever this kind of service is desired.

Examination Questions.

A correspondent has asked if we could publish some of the questions set in the Nalgo Examinations and some of the students' answers. Demands on space may prevent the publication of answers, but we propose to give some of the questions from time to time in this column.

Competitions.

Humorous Incident.

PRIZE: A BOOK.

A book is offered as a prize for the best description of a humorous incident experienced in the course of duty under a Local Authority.

Such incidents should be genuinely humorous and should be written on a postcard to reach the Editor not later than 16th October.

Christmas Cartoon.

PRIZE: TO BE ANNOUNCED.

A prize will be awarded to the reader who submits the best Christmas cartoon.

Cartoons, which should have a definite connection with the Association and its activities, should reach the Editor by the 15th November.

As a result of an interview the D.O.S. had with the Rating Committee at Easington, the Rural District Council have agreed to pay compensation to seven Water Rate Collectors, owing to loss of office consequent upon a revision which has been made in the work of the Council.

Messrs. Fuller Medley's bulb list is now ready and copies have been forwarded to Branch Secretaries.

"HELP YOURSELF" ANNUALS

per **2/6** copy

Do not forget to purchase your Copy from the Branch Secretary

On Sale 15th October

Each purchaser helps the N.A.L.G.O. Benevolent and Orphan Fund and will participate in a free distribution of £20,000 worth of gifts.

SELL 20 AND RECEIVE FREE XMAS BOX

BATH—*Continued from page 235.*

Aldermen, varying in number from 4 to 10, and a Council of about 20 members. This body was self-elective. There were the Freemen or free citizens. The Chamber was recruited from these freemen, who shared in the profits of the City commons and had the exclusive right of opening shops in the City. Besides governing the City, the Chamber elected gentlemen who were on behalf of the City to assist in the government of the nation.

The judicial business of the town was conducted by the Mayor, two of the Aldermen annually elected justices, the Common Clerk and the Recorder.

The Record Court sat every Monday in the Council Chamber, and had unlimited jurisdiction in actions of contract and tort arising within the City.

The Criminal Court was administered by the Mayor, Recorder and Justices at Petty Sessions and at Quarter Sessions, but there was no power to punish felons, and even trifling cases of larceny had to be remitted for trial at the County Sessions or the Assizes.

The Executive was vested in the bailiffs, who were the Sheriffs of the City. Under their control was the gaol. They paid the gaoler, executed writs and managed the markets.

Historic Associations.

Mural tablets, recording residences in the City, have been erected in respect of many eminent personages, including Beau Nash; William Pitt (Earl of Chatham) and his son; Clive; General Wolfe; Gainsborough; Burke; Jane Austen; Nelson; Livingstone, and Fanny Burney.

The Abbey.

The Abbey is one of the latest examples of pure perpendicular architecture, and is remarkable for its enormous area of window space and beautiful fan tracery vaulting. The present building was begun in the reign of Henry VII (1499) by Oliver King, Bishop of Bath and Wells. Offa, King of Mercia, founded a College of Secular Canons at Bath, and King Edgar was crowned in the Saxon Abbey. Later John de Villula, the famous Norman bishop, deciding to set up his throne at Bath, demolished the Saxon church and erected a large Norman cathedral. This was destroyed by fire and a still larger structure took its place, and fragments of the Norman church may still be seen in the end of the present building.

Architecture, etc.

Architecturally, Bath is essentially a Georgian City, for nowhere can 18th-century architecture and town planning be seen in such perfection. Its handsome streets, and such magnificent buildings as the Royal Crescent, the Circus, Queen Square, Pulteney Street and the Parados are a monument to the genius of John Wood and the architects of the 18th century and the delight of every visitor of taste,

Bath is one of the best known and most frequented spas in the country, and Americans in ever increasing numbers visit the City. Both for the archæologist and pleasure seeker it offers a very wide range.

Personalia.

Mrs. L. J. Rees (formerly Miss Janie Williams) was recently presented with a canteen of cutlery by the staff of the Merthyr Tydfil Town Hall on the occasion of her marriage. The recipient has been employed for 13 years at the Merthyr School Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre, and was held in high esteem by all who came in contact with her. Dr. A. Duncan, who presided at the meeting, in handing over the gift, referred to her sterling character and good qualities, and was supported by several colleagues in the respective departments.

* * * *

Mr. Walter Naylor, who recently retired from his post of Borough Cashier at Bolton, had nearly 59 years' service. Commencing as an apprentice on March 12th, 1872, Mr. Naylor began his duties in the municipal offices in Acresfield,

Mr. W. Naylor.

the new Town Hall not being completed, and he crossed over to the Town Hall in October, 1873. At a pleasing little ceremony recently he was presented by the staff with a grandmother clock, suitably inscribed.

* * * *

Mr. Alfred Powell Coke, Barrister of Gray's Inn, who has been appointed Town Clerk of St. Pancras, entered the service of the St. Pancras Borough Council in July, 1904, when he was appointed Chief Clerk in the Public Health Department. In July, 1925, he was appointed to the office of Deputy Town Clerk. Mr. Coke is the author of many articles and reports on Local Government law. We are able to state that Mr. Coke's appointment is a very popular one with all his brother officers. He is an enthusiastic Nalgoite, and has frequently given tangible proof of his interest in the staff, and has rendered good service on many occasions at social functions of the St. Pancras Branch.

* * * *

Dr. E. Gibbs-Smith, Medical Officer of Teddington, was presented with a pair of prismatic binoculars on the occasion of his retirement on superannuation.

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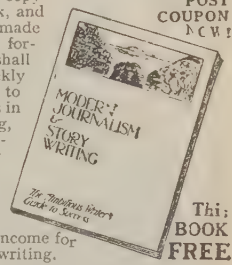

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The Bookshelf.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT 1929; Edited by *F. C. Allworth. Published by Butterworth & Co., Ltd. Price 42s. net.*

Every officer finds the need of referring periodically to the exact wording of a statute, order or form, and this work is designed for his convenience in easy reference as regards 1929. Statutes, circulars and orders are, of course, filed in every office, but this book saves hunting through files and covers practically every official document or decision issued during the year affecting Local Authorities.

The arrangement of matter is under alphabetical order of subjects from "Accounts and Audit" down to "Workmen's Compensation," with suitable cross references. In addition there is a very good index, a list of statutes and a table of cases.

LEAVES FROM THE GREVILLE DIARY: by *Phillip Morrell. Published by Eveleigh Nash and Grayson. 21s. net.*

Greville is recognised as one of the most delightful of authors, giving the best description that has yet appeared of social and political England during the reigns of George IV and the first twenty years or so of Queen Victoria. In "Leaves from the Greville Diary" the best part of his work appears for the first time in this country within a single volume, and in a readable form. Mr. Phillip Morrell, who has arranged the selection and contributed the Introduction and Notes, is already well known for his literary criticism, and is intimately acquainted with the history of that time. The book also contains in an Appendix some interesting letters from Greville which have never before appeared, and are included by permission of the Duke of Portland.

Obituary.

IT is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. George Proudlove, on Saturday, the 30th August.

Mr. Proudlove, who was 76 years of age, retired from the service of the Bolton Corporation at the end of March, 1926, having been on the staff of the Borough Treasurer's Department for 53 years. When he joined the staff in February, 1873, it was limited to four clerks, and his appointment had for a time to be regarded as temporary. He served under four borough treasurers, and during an interval between the death of one and the appointment of another he occupied the office himself, temporarily. For some years prior to his retirement, Mr. Proudlove was cashier to the department.

For some time past he had been failing in health.

* * * *

Bournemouth Corporation has lost a highly valued official by the death of Mr. Charles Stacey Hall, F.C.I.S., the Assistant Town Clerk. Mr. Stacey Hall had been in the service of the Bournemouth Council since 1893, becoming Assistant Town Clerk in 1902. He was a prominent member of the local Branch and was on the Committee.

* * * *

We regret to record the death of Mr. J. T. Wynne Jones, of the City Treasurer's Department, Liverpool. Mr. Wynne Jones was a prominent member of the local Branch and a member of the Management Committee of the Nalgo Approved Society.

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Sports and Recreations.

Pullinger Chess Cup Competition.

The following Branches comprise the entries for the Nalgo Correspondence Chess Competition 1930-31, for the Pullinger Cup:—Bootle, Bradford, Hastings, Kensington, Southwark, West Riding, and the result of the Draw is:—*1st Round*—(A) Hastings *v.* Southwark, (B) West Riding *v.* Bradford, (C) Bootle *v.* Kensington. *2nd round*—Winner of (A) *v.* Winner of (C), Winner of (B) a Bye. *Final*—B. *v.* (A) or (C). The team mentioned first in each case will play White pieces on Boards Nos. 1 and 3.

The dates of commencement and finish of each Round are as follows:—1st Round, 4th September, 1930, finish 22nd November, 1930. 2nd Round, 29th November, 1930, finish 21st February, 1931. Final, 28th February, 1931, finish 16th May, 1931, and each player having the White pieces shall send his first move on or before the date of commencement of each Round, and the last move shall be that sent on the date of the finish of each Round, after which date, if any games remain unfinished, and the players concerned cannot come to an agreement as to the result, they shall be forwarded to the Honorary Chess Secretary for adjudication.

Southern District Cricket.

The Final of the Southern District Cricket Competition was played on Saturday, 30th August, at Reading, on the University Ground, between the Bucks County and Bournemouth Branches. Bournemouth won the trophy last season, and were reputed to be a very sound eleven again this year. There was considerable speculation locally as to whether Bucks would be strong enough to repeat their performance of 1928 and return with the trophy. The result, therefore, came somewhat as a surprise, Bournemouth being dismissed for 21 runs, the local side replying with 133.

During the tea interval hearty thanks were accorded to the Reading University Authorities for the use of their beautiful ground, and to the Reading Branch for their assistance in the arrangements.

(*Continued on next page.*)

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Metropolitan District Whist Competition.

Entries for the above Competition should be sent in not later than 11th October to A. D. Spaull, Hon. Sec., Southgate Town Hall, N.13.

Metropolitan District Reunion.

Members are asked to note that the tenth Metropolitan District Reunion and Bohemian Concert will be held at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W.1, on Friday, 24th April, 1931.

Metropolitan Chess Section.

For the Team Competition the entrants are Bethnal Green, Camberwell, East Ham, Kensington, Lambeth, Southwark and Woolwich.

In the London Chess League—"C." Division—the opponents are the Vino C.C., Railway Clearing House, Lud Eagle, Polytechnic, Finchley, Metropolitan, Clapham Common and Battersea.

The first round of the Individual Championship will be played on Friday, the 14th November, between W. Morrison and W. R. Farmer, P. E. Harbott and W. J. Mills, H. J. Drayton and M. J. Murphy, Miss Jordan and G. P. Frost and W. Nixon (a bye). The second round will be played on the 2nd January, 1931, the third round on the 27th February and the final on the 27th March.

Opponents in the Handicap Competition are H. J. Drayton, W. C. Dendy, R. Derrick, V. de Thier, E. B. Eagles, W. R. Farmer, G. P. Frost, P. E. Harbott, R. Howe, Dr. R. Jordan, W. Morrison, M. J. Murphy, W. Nixon and A. C. Roberts.

Fixture list, score sheet and conditions of play may be obtained from Mr. M. J. Murphy, Hon. Chess Secretary, Town Hall, Bethnal Green.

North Wales Sports.

GREAT enthusiasm has been shewn this season in the sports arranged amongst North Wales Branches.

TENNIS.—The Tennis (Teams) Tournament took place at Rhyl on Saturday, August 9th, 8 teams competing, the semi-final and final resulting as follows:—*Semi-final.*—Ruthin "A" v. Ruthin "B"; Wrexham "A" v. Llandudno. *Final.*—Wrexham "A" v. Ruthin "A." The "Individual" Tennis Tournament took place at Ruthin on Saturday, August 16th, 14 playing, representing Bangor, Holywell, Rhyl, Ruthin, and Wrexham Branches. The winner was Mr. Norman Hughes, of Wrexham, and Mr. W. Field, of Rhyl, tied for second prize, with Mr. F. M. Edwards, of Wrexham, Mr. Field winning after an exciting match. Mr. Haden Corser, the D.O.S., presented the "Shield" (subscribed for by North Wales Branches and North-Western District Committee) to Ruthin Branch winners last year, who then handed same to Wrexham Branch, and also 1st and 2nd prizes, value one guinea and half guinea respectively, to Messrs. Hughes and Field.

GOLF.—Both Team and Individual Competitions were held at Llandudno on Saturday, September 6th. The results being:—*Teams.*—Llandudno "A", 315, Colwyn Bay, 368; Llandudno "B," 378, and Ruthin, 400. In the Individual Competition Mr. Lloyd Wynne (Llandudno) won first prize with a net score of 72, and Mr. E. W. Fletcher (Rhyl) second prize, net score, 76. There were 24 entries. Mr. Haden Corser, D.O.S., presented the Llandudno Branch with a Cup, kindly given by Councillor J. E. Payne, Chairman of the Llandudno U.D.C., 1929, also the individual prizes to the winners. At each event the Home Branches entertained the members and friends to tea.

CRICKET.—Matches have been cancelled this year owing to it being late in the season.

BOWLS.—The Competition for Bowls took place at Colwyn Bay on Saturday, September 27th.

The Sports Committee are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts, and they are now contemplating on the winter programme. Mr. R. Hext (Colwyn Bay), the Hon. Secretary of the North Wales District Sub-Committee, was warmly praised for the services rendered as Secretary to the Sports Committee, Mr. J. D. Jones (Rhyl) being the Chairman. The North-Western District Committee and the various Branches were also warmly thanked for the financial assistance given during the year toward the sports, such valuable assistance being highly appreciated.

N.W. District Sports.

The North Western District Sports Competitions were arranged for Saturday, the 13th September, at Southport, but they were marred by continuous rain. The bowling and tennis events had to be postponed until the 27th at Lytham St. Annes. The golf individual merit cup (presented by the Accrington Branch) and the first prize, consisting of a pewter tea service, were won by Mr. G. H. Keeley (Southport Branch) with a net score of 73. Mr. W. E. Phillipson (Manchester Branch) was second with a score of 78.

Bucks County Tennis.

The Bucks County Branch succeeded in retaining the tennis trophy by beating the Hampshire Branch in the final at Aldershot on Saturday, 6th September. Their success was only gained after a very keen struggle.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Aldershot entertained the teams to tea. Mr. D. L. Griffiths, Chairman of the Southern District Committee and Town Clerk of Aldershot, was among those present.

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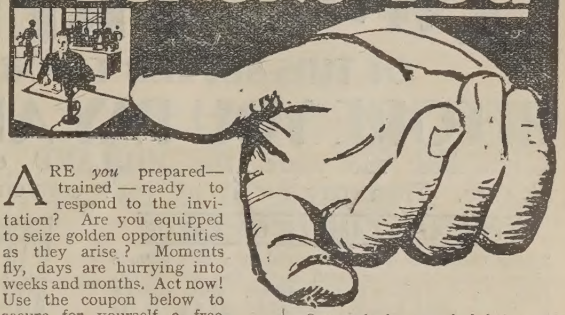

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